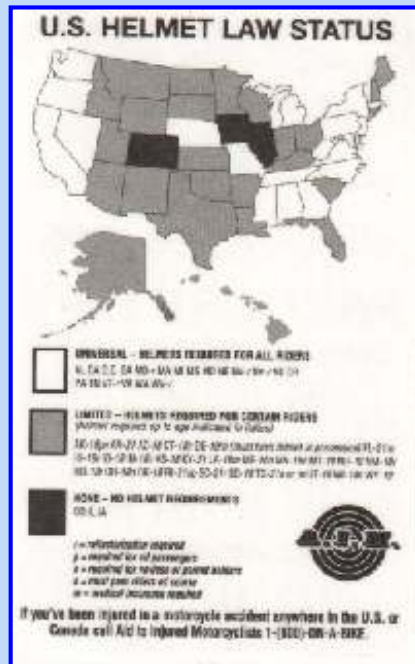


MOTORCYCLE HELMETS

1



**"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself;
but the simple pass on, and are punished"
Proverbs 27:12**

¶ Like it or not motorcycle riding does entail some risk... just like everything else. In every statistical report I have ever read, the figures are always the same. In all fatal accidents about 80% of the deaths were caused by head injuries. This is true of both motorcycles and, get this, CARS. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure this one out. Be prudent... foresee evil... hide yourself from it... wear a Helmet.

Now, I'm 100% against Mandatory Helmet Laws for adults, but if you ride and don't wear a helmet, you are doing a foolish thing. There are some who say the weight of the helmet can break your neck or that it hurts your peripheral vision. What a load of BS. If you are hit hard enough to break your neck it would have splattered your head without the helmet. Either way you are dead. For the other, just turn your head... Duh! Sorry if I offend. I have never suffered fools well and this is no exception.

If you don't want to wear a helmet, be a man (or woman!), and just say you prefer not to wear one and will live with the risk. Don't give a lot of BS that it's safer without one. If it was safer, racers would not be wearing them. Speaking of racers, I have a number of photographs of racers sliding on their helmets. The majority were able to pick up their bikes and keep going. I have NO pictures of anyone sliding on their heads, without a helmet, and living.



Several years ago a young man, about 18, came into my shop. I had a junkie, old, used helmet and he bought it, along with a flat face shield. About a week later he came back in to get another flat shield. Seems he fell off on a dirt road corner and ruined the other one. Said his

head was still ringing. We tried to put it on but one of the side snaps just would not line up. 2 We started looking at that helmet. There wasn't a scratch on it. It looked good. But if you looked at it just the right way it was real obvious. The whole side was caved in. It had saved his life. Think about it. Like the Bible says. Look ahead, see the danger, and prepare for it.

Here's another thought on safety. You will notice that almost all veteran riders wear leather. Truth be known, if you ride long enough, you're going to fall off. Just a fact of life... live with it. In the event of a spill, Leather gloves, jacket and pants, will make things much easier to take. Don't forget good leather shoes. Many is the time I've saved myself from a fall with a good dab with my foot. If you are wearing a thong sandal... ?

I see guys, all the time, riding around on 160 MPH bikes with nothing on but shorts and thongs. They might as well tattoo a big "I'm a CHERRY" on their backs. I hate looking like a newbie, but I guess these guys think it's cool. Raspberries on your hide are not cool. What are raspberries? Hit the pavement once without leather and you'll find out.

While you will want to wear the best helmet you can, anything is better than nothing.

Here are some links, if you want to learn more.

[Snell Foundation](#) ...Helmet testing.
[Department Of Transportation](#) ...DOT Motorcycle safety PDF.

Size	XX-SMALL	X-SMALL	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
Hat Size	6 ⁷ / ₈ –6 ¹ / ₂ "	6 ⁷ / ₈ –6 ³ / ₄ "	6 ⁷ / ₈ –7"	7 ¹ / ₃ –7 ¹ / ₄ "	7 ¹ / ₃ –7 ¹ / ₂ "	7 ⁵ / ₈ –7 ³ / ₄ "	7 ¹ / ₃ –8"
Centimeters	51–52cm	53–54cm	55–56cm	57–58cm	59–60cm	61–62cm	63–64cm
Inches	20 ¹ / ₈ –20 ¹ / ₂ "	20 ⁷ / ₈ –21 ¹ / ₄ "	21 ¹ / ₈ –22"	22 ¹ / ₃ –22 ¹ / ₈ "	23 ¹ / ₄ –23 ⁵ / ₈ "	24–24 ³ / ₈ "	24 ¹ / ₃ –25 ¹ / ₄ "

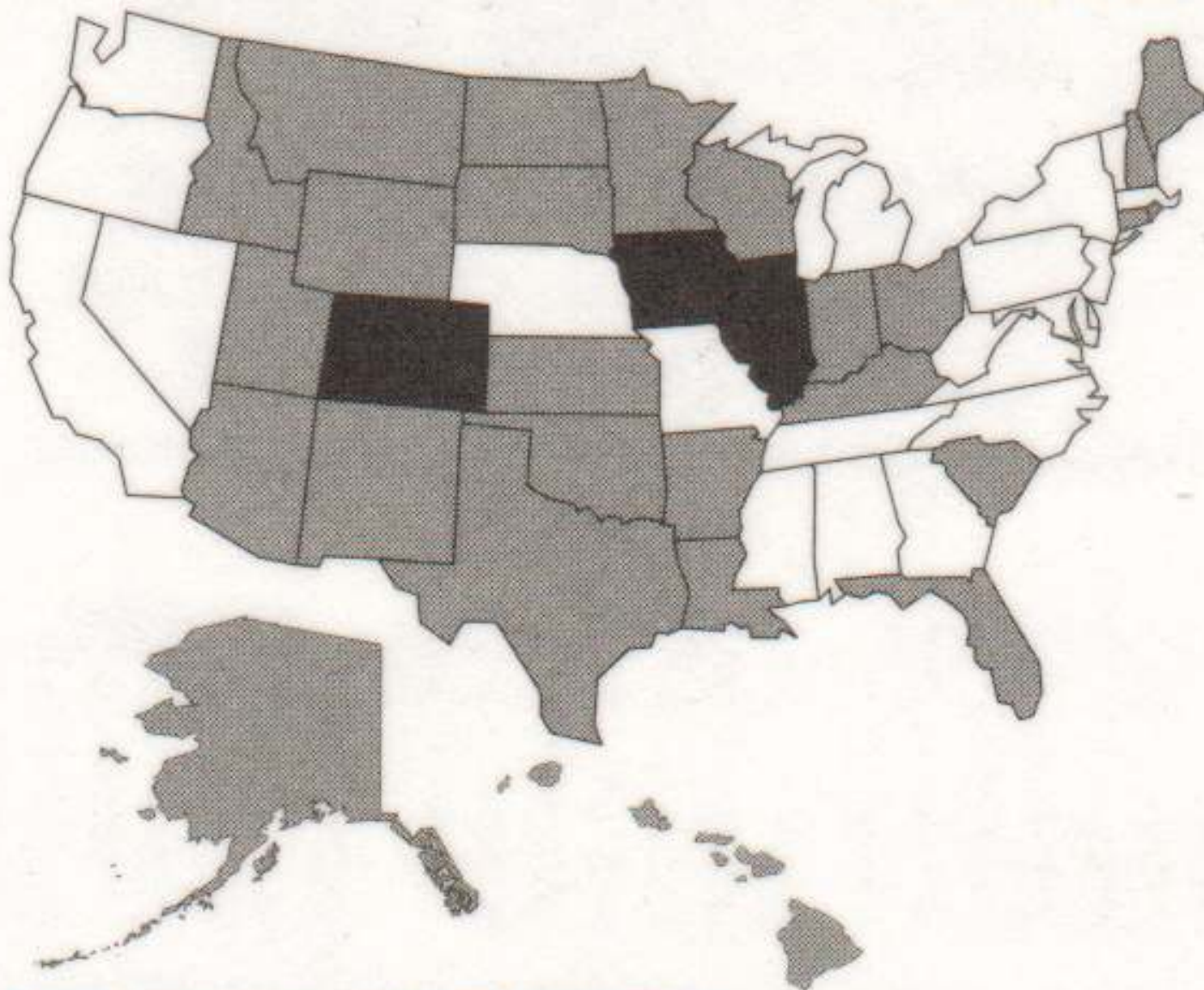
I, in my foolish youth, once lived in good, ol' Southern California. Down there everyone splits lanes. No one ever seemed to get hurt. Now, they did get a lot of drivers mad at them but I got to admit, if you split lanes, it is not as dangerous as it looks. I never did it, call me a wimp, it just never looked like a good idea.

I just read a report from the University of California Berkeley. Seems it really is not as dangerous as I had thought. Who would have thunk it? If you would like to read the report in PDF [Click Here](#).

[Back to M/C Repair Course](#)

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U.S. HELMET LAW STATUS



UNIVERSAL – HELMETS REQUIRED FOR ALL RIDERS

AL CA D.C. GA MD-r MA MI MS MO NE NV-r NY-r NC OR
PA TN VT-r VA WA WV-r



LIMITED – HELMETS REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN RIDERS

(helmet required up to age indicated in italics)

AK-19pn AR-21 AZ-18 CT-18n DE-19rn (must have helmet in possession) FL-21m
HI-18r ID-18 IN-18n KS-18 KY-21 LA-18m ME-15n MN-18n MT-18 NH-18 NM-18r
ND-18r OH-18n OK-18 RI-21np SC-21r SD-18 TX-21e or m UT-18 WI-18n WY-19



NONE – NO HELMET REQUIREMENTS

CO IL IA



NONE - NO HELMET REQUIREMENTS
CO IL IA



r = reflectorization required
p = required for all passengers
n = required for novices or permit holders
e = must pass riders ed course
m = medical insurance required

**If you've been injured in a motorcycle accident anywhere in the U.S. or
Canada call Aid to Injured Motorcyclists 1-(800)-ON-A-BIKE.**



This bike is going 175 MPH. The white spot is the guy's helmet. He walked away uninjured.